

REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action mailed on June 3, 2005, the period of response having been extended until November 3, 2005.

Objection to the Specification

As requested by the Examiner, applicants have corrected the typographical error on page 4, line 8.

The Objection to Claims 10 and 11

Claims 10 and 11 are objected to because of incorrect claim dependency. Claims 10 and 11 have been amended to depend from Claim 8. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the objection to Claims 10 and 11.

The Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, and 8-11 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Horzewski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,364,376). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Nothing in the Ginn et al. patent teaches or suggests a guidewire exit tool including a handle, a pin that engages a guidewire that lifts a guidewire out of a guidewire channel, and a web that fits through a slot of a guidewire channel and secures the pin to the handle such that the pin can be moved along the guidewire channel by the handle.

Accordingly, the withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, and 8-11 is respectfully requested.

The Rejection of Claims 1 and 2 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ginn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,458,584). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Nothing in the Horzewski et al. patent teaches or suggests a guidewire exit tool including a handle, a pin that engages a guidewire that lifts a guidewire out of a guidewire channel, and a

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web that fits through a slot of a guidewire channel and secures the pin to the handle such that the pin can be moved along the guidewire channel by the handle.

Accordingly, the withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1 and 2 is respectfully requested.

The Rejection of Claims 1, 2, and 4-7 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 2, and 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Paoli (U.S. Patent No. 2,552,450). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Nothing in the Paoli patent teaches or suggests a guidewire exit tool including a handle, a pin that engages a guidewire that lifts a guidewire out of a guidewire channel, and a web that fits through a slot of a guidewire channel and secures the pin to the handle such that the pin can be moved along the guidewire channel by the handle.

Accordingly, the withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 2, and 4-7 is respectfully requested.

The Rejection of Claims 1-3 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Horrocks (U.S. Patent No. 3,831,274). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Nothing in the Horrocks patent teaches or suggests a guidewire exit tool including a handle, a pin that engages a guidewire that lifts a guidewire out of a guidewire channel, and a web that fits through a slot of a guidewire channel and secures the pin to the handle such that the pin can be moved along the guidewire channel by the handle.

Accordingly, the withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-3 is respectfully requested.

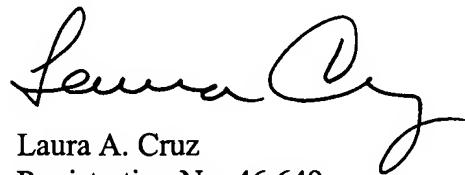
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner has any further questions or comments, the Examiner may contact the applicants' attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date: November 3, 2005



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